Montana Newsletter

Montana State Library

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UPDATE
Montana State Library

NO. 43 JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1996

State Library Notes

State Librarian Resigns:

State Librarian Richard Miller has announced his intention to resign effective June 7, 1996. Miller, who has been with the Montana State Library since January 1989, has indicated that he will be exploring other opportunities both within and outside the library field. "I have enjoyed the opportunity to work with librarians, trustees, and officials of all types in Montana as we all have worked toward the overall goal of improved library services for our citizens," Miller said.

Updates to the 1996 Montana Library Directory:

Skyview High School, Billings: New phone 406-247-2433.

New Montana Library Services Advisory Council member: Will Cowdry, 412 West Sussex Ave., Missoula, MT 59801-6839, 406-549-1731, Tamarack Federation User Representative, Term Expires: 06/07.

Peggy Guthrie: Fax 406-466-2726

Trego Elementary School: Fax: 406-882-4365

Montana Tech of UM Division of Technology Library: New phone: 406-496-3701, Fax: 406-496-3710.

Sue Nissen, Law Librarian at MPC: New phone: 406-497-2004x72111, Fax: 406-497-2451.

Other changes to the 1996 Montana Library Directory? Please contact Diane Gunderson, Data Coordinator at 406-444-5349, Fax: 406-444-5612, E-mail: dmgunde@msl.mt.gov.

GIS in Libraries Project:

A Geographic Information System (GIS) is used to access and study information in the form of maps, tables, charts, and reports. It lets you pose questions and see answers in the form of maps. For example, you can create a map to answer the question "Where are all the endangered species in Montana?" Or pose a more complex question with another map data layer, such as "How many endangered species live on protected lands?"

The Natural Resource Information System (NRIS) at the Montana State Library is working with many agencies and organizations to promote GIS education in Montana. NRIS has many layers of general statewide GIS data, and some very detailed site-specific data. There are also several worldwide databases available from a partnership between NRIS and the Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc. [ESRI].

Through this partnership, libraries can access GIS data with a software package called "ArcView™." ArcView™ functions like a card catalog of maps. Users can, with some training, access extensive databases and create and print out the maps they need.

NRIS provides public access to all of its GIS data, helps acquire the software for the libraries, and can help install the software and provide training to any library that has the hardware and the support staff to use it.

Since the pilot project to put GIS on computers in Montana libraries began in 1991, several libraries have come on board. There are currently PCs with the GIS software and data at NRIS as well as in fifteen libraries around the state.

If you have questions or comments on this project, or would like more information, contact Kris Larson at NRIS, Montana State Library phone: 406-444-5691, or E-mail psmith@nris.msl.mt.gov.

The State Library has signed Ameritech contract:

Great news! The State Library has signed its contract with Ameritech for the Horizon Library Automation System, and will within a few weeks begin the tasks associated with automating the State Library for the first time. Financing of the system over five years has given MSL the flexibility to purchase this state of the art library automation system. With contract signing completed, the next phases will include database planning, profiling and scheduling for implementation of the system, as well as database preparation, collection weeding, and bar coding. Vicki Terbovich, Statewide Technology Consultant, and Jim Senkler, Library Systems Administrator will be coordinating the deployment of the Horizon system and will be going to the Ameritech headquarters in Provo, UT to work with the Horizon team leader who has been assigned to the Montana State Library.

The Horizon system is a graphical user interface system which will allow the public to access the collection from a Windows workstation within the State Library, from their own desktop anywhere in the capitol complex, or over the Internet. Horizon is an

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integrated library automation system that can work within our local area network at the State Library; it allows staff to automate many manual tasks. The system contains the following modules: cataloging and authority maintenance, circulation control, serials and acquisitions as well as the public access catalog.

Western Council of State Libraries met in Kona, Hawaii on November 18 through 22th. Besides the typical business meeting activities several good continuing education programs were presented. Darlene Staffeldt attended sessions on developing strategies for a community information network, leadership of change in library systems, COSLA legislation, stress management, as well as several good sessions on re-engineering. It was a good meeting and a great location.

Commission News

December Commission Meeting: At the December 6, 1995 Commission meeting, LSCA funds were approved for FY96 non-construction grants. If the full anticipated amount of LSCA becomes available, there will be monies to fund all selected projects. Awards, in priority order, were made to Livingston Internet Link, Eagle Link [Sidney], NorCentralNet [Havre-two separate grants], SLATE [Miles City], Hays School LaserCat, Entering the Computer Age [Darby], MPL Online [Missoula], Linking Central to the World [Butte Central High School]. All grant applications involved increased computer technology.

Following the December LSCA grant awards, Hardin and Lincoln County, whose projects were not selected for funding, filed appeals. Independent Review Committee members have been selected. Those members are William Cochran, Director of Parmly Billings Library; Lois Fitzpatrick, Director of Carroll College Library; and Brenda Grasmick, Technical Services Coordinator, State Law Library. The committee will meet via teleconference on February 2nd to establish a process and a time line for the appeals.

Other actions at the December Commission meeting were to disburse the balance of this fiscal year's coal severance tax appropriated for federations, since the Department of Revenue has made it available to the State Library. In previous years, this funding was distributed quarterly. Priorities for FY98 LSCA funding were established: "to make Internet, electronic and technological access available to all Montana Libraries." This continues the priorities of FY96 and FY97.

The Commission also appointed Will Cowdrey of Missoula as the Pathfinder Federation representative to the Library Services Advisory Council.

Peggy Guthrie has been elected Chair of the State Library Commission for the 1996 calendar year. Michael Schulz is Vice-Chair. Their addresses and phone numbers are listed in the Montana Library Directory.

Public Library News

Missoula Public Library: Has appointed Bette Ammon as its new Assistant Director.

PLIIP project: Several of Montana's public libraries have gotten a lift making Internet connections throughout the Public Library Internet Infrastructure Project [PLIIP], an LSCA Title II project. The project is providing for the installation of hardware [a router, and a CSU/DSU] and connectivity to the Internet via InfoMine of the Rockies. The local public library provides a financial match by paying for telecommunications connections and the monthly maintenance fees on telecom equipment needed to make the Internet connection.

The PLIIP project has linked Bozeman Public Library, Great Falls Public Library, Havre-Hill County Library, Missoula Public Library and Flathead County Library to the Internet with dedicated connections. These libraries are now all capable of accessing the WLN bibliographic database for cataloging, interlibrary loan and other services directly via the Internet using the WLN LINC software.

PLIIP project coordinator Bruce Newell and Vicki Terbovich, Statewide Technology Consultant from the State Library, are gearing up to connect more public libraries in Montana to the Internet via the PLIIP project. Phillip Curtiss from the Internet services provider InfoMine of the Rockies has been assisting with coordination of telecom services which are being provided primarily through US West. He has also provided the PLIIP Project libraries with consultative services related to security and other connectivity issues. Sidney Public Library, Broadwater/ School-Community Library, Bitterroot Public Library, Choteau County Free Library, and Big Horn County Library are slated to be the next group of libraries to obtain Internet connectivity. A third group of PLIIP-funded Internet connections is expected to include Miles City Public Library, Polson City Library, Blaine County Library, and the Butte-Silverbow Library. Montana is on its way to connecting to the Information Superhighway!!!

The Miles City Public Library: is getting Express Dynix, which is being funded by the library foundation.

Columbia Falls Librarian Retires: After 31 years, Columbia Falls Librarian Barbara Wirkus retired on September 1, 1995.

The Belgrade Community Library: Barbara Abbott is the new Director as of August

Other Montana News

Izella Warner, librarian at Chinook High School for 10 years is moving to Virginia as assistant director of a tri-county library system.

MLA Announces Spring Conference: The MLA will hold its spring conference at the Best Western Colonial Inn in Helena on April 25-27, 1996, with a pre-conference on the 24th. The theme is "Librarians Celebrate Community and Honor Diversity!" The pre-conference features WLN's Charlie Crawford and Tom Crisp speaking on advanced uses of LaserCat. The conference keynote speaker is Thomas B. Quarton, President of Ameritech Library Services. Contact: Polly Taggart 406-373-5331, polly@mcn.net or Niki Whearty 406-447-8827 or nwhearty@wln.com.

MLA Author Luncheon Featuring Chris Crutcher: An award winning author, Chris Crutcher writes stories about the issues facing adolescents such as friendship, loyalty and courage. The realities conveyed in his books for young adults stem from his background as director of an alternative school, as a child and family therapist and as chairperson of the Spokane, WA, Child Protection Team. The luncheon for Crutcher will be held at noon on Saturday, April 27 during the MLA Spring Conference.

Safety Culture Act: Are you in compliance with 39-71-1501, MCA? The Montana Safety Culture Act, passed by the 1993 Legislature, requires that all public and private employers having more than five employees must have a comprehensive and effective safety program, which will include:

a] Policies and procedures that assign specific safety responsibilities and safety performance accountability.

b] A Safety Committee composed of employee and employer representatives that holds regularly scheduled meetings.

c] Procedures for reporting and investigating all work-related incidents, accidents, injuries, illnesses and known unsafe working conditions and taking corrective action.

d] Safety committee activities that assist the employer in fact finding and reporting.

Contact: Mary Jane West at the State Library, 406-444-3384.

Library Literacy Program grants amounting to over $8 million were recently awarded by the U.S. Department of Education. Eight Montana libraries receiving grants are:

- Big Horn County Public Library, Hardin - $33,899
- Bitterroot Public Library, Hamilton - $35,000
- Butte-Silver Bow Public Library, Butte - $35,000
- Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes, Pablo - $34,987
- Havre-Hill County Library, Havre - $29,756
- Lewiston Public Library, Lewiston - $26,310
- Missoula Public Library, Missoula - $28,000
- Rocky Boy Community Public Library, Box Elder - $34,824.

The Second Annual Conference on Intellectual Freedom has been scheduled for April 18-20, 1996 at MSU-Northern in Havre. Possible intellectual freedom topics to be discussed include, curricular debate, free speech in the wake of Oklahoma City, Waco, etc., faculty and student conduct codes, women's rights, minority rights, freedom of information and technology.

Contact: Will Rawn, Conference Director 406-265-3789, Rawn@nmc1.nmclites.edu.

National News

ALA and Microsoft Launch "Libraries Online!" ALA has announced that it will partner with Microsoft Corporation to launch "Libraries Online!," a one-year, $3 million initiative to research and develop innovative approaches for extending information technologies to underserved populations.

Libraries Online! is a pilot project to test the best ways of providing public access to the Internet, multimedia technology and current software applications. Nine already selected libraries will receive cash grants, staff training, computer hardware, Microsoft and technical support to address specific community needs.

Each library system was selected because of the innovative programs they are building to provide their communities with access to personal computers and the Internet.

The Children's Book Council debuts CBC*Online:* This new website is devoted to promoting childhood reading and children's books. The CBC recently debuted its new World Wide Web Site [http://www.CBCBooks.org]. CBC, a trade association of over 90 children's books publishing companies and producers of related literacy materials for children, is now offering online information about the world of children's books. Materials online include: CBC bibliographies and publications; newsletter articles from *CBC Features*; ordering information for National Children's Book Week items; and a listing of members, with descriptions of each company's publishing program. Direct links are provided to related Internet sites.

National Library Week has technology focus; prizes to be awarded: The 1996 observance of National Library Week, April 14-20,

continues the theme "Libraries Change Lives" with the addition of a tagline: "Call. Visit. Log on." to highlight the role of libraries in making information technology available to the public.

To focus attention on how technology is helping libraries change lives, ALA will award an Encarta 96 Encyclopedia Multimedia CD-ROM [retail value $54.95] compliments of Microsoft to every library that submits a story, editorial, column or interview carried by non-library media about how the public is benefitting from computers, access to the Internet and other information technology at the library.

A grand prize, consisting of a complete Microsoft CD-ROM Library, more than 30 products with a retail value of $1,300, will be awarded for the best placement. The top 10 entries will receive the Microsoft Reference Library, with a retail value of $164.85.

All types of libraries are eligible to enter. Placements must appear after January 1, 1996, in non-library media. Copies of articles or tapes [audio cassettes or VHS videotape] should be submitted by May 10 to the ALA Public Information Office, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611, along with a letter documenting how the placement originated and contact information for the library. A certificate of appreciation will be provided for the local media that published or aired the story.

Contact ALA Public Information Office, 312-280-5044, pio@ala.org.

'Ask the Librarians!' - 'We Fired Them, Sir' [Our thanks to Laurel Egan, St. James Community Hospital Health Sciences Library in Butte for bringing this article to our attention.] Companies that eliminate their librarians and let their employees do their own on-line searches are likely to find that the total staff time and costs associated with information gathering will increase, not decline. The reason is that while the proliferation of databases makes more information available, it also requires more specialized expertise to know which databases are best for specific needs and how to use the databases efficiently and cost effectively. Research has shown that corporate libraries can save their organizations as much as seven times the cost of their operation. Therefore, companies should heed the warning Peter Drucker gave several years ago - there is a difference between being computer literate and information literate. [David R. Bender, Ph.D. Executive Director Special Libraries Association]

Correction

Our apologies to Jim Heckel, Director of the Great Falls Public Library for leaving his name off the list of Montana Library Services Advisory Council members in the last issue of this newsletter.

Calendar

Feb 13-14, 96	State Library Commission Meeting, Helena
Feb 17-19, 96	Off-Line Retreat - Helena
Feb 19, 96	State Holiday [Presidents' Day]
Mar 26-30, 96	Public Library Association National Conference: "Access for All - The Public Library Promise," Portland
Apr 1-3, 96	Montana GIS Conference, Missoula
Apr 14-20	National Library Week: "Libraries Change Lives"
Apr 16, 96	Log on @ the Library Day, Call ALA Public Information Office 800-545-2433x5044
Apr 24-27, 96	Montana Library Association [MLA] 83rd Annual conference, Helena, MT
Apr 25	Montana State Library Commission Meeting
May 6, 96	Center for the Book Idea Exchange Day - Washington, D.C.
May 7, 96	Library Legislative Day Call 202-628-8410
May 27, 96	State Holiday [Memorial Day]
July 4-10, 96	ALA Annual Conference NY, NY

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